



1956

Saskatchewan

Rural

Telephone

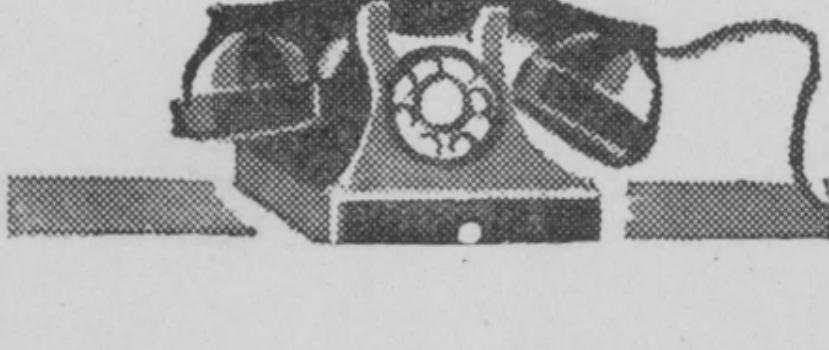
Companies

Association



Minutes of

1956 Convention



M. Fritshaw—President
Tisdale, Sask.

The annual convention of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Telephones was held in the Marigold Cafe, Saskatoon, on July 9, 1956.

The president, M. Fritshaw, opened the meeting at 10.40 a.m. In his remarks, Mr. Fritshaw said: "I suppose you all know that we are meeting this morning under different circumstances than has been our custom for a good many years. Missing from our midst is our president, Mr. Frank Randall. He passed away last fall. Those who knew him personally no comments are necessary; but I might state that he was an outstanding president of this association for many years. Mr. Randall served this association well. I think it only fitting that we should stand at attention for 2 minutes in his memory".

The next order of business should be the reading of the 1955 minutes. These have been printed and distributed. As you have had time to read them, I now ask for a motion that they be adopted as printed. Manitou Lake moved that "the minutes be adopted as printed".

Seconded by Viscount. The chairman declared the motion carried.

The chairman then asked for nominations for the "resolutions committee".

Nominated were: W. H. Howes, C. B. Sutton and R. J. Greaves.

Moved and seconded that nominations close. Declared carried and these three elected "Resolutions Committee."

The chairman called upon Mr. T. E. Cavanagh, Supt. of Rurals. Mr. Cavanagh said "I am certainly glad to be with you again, to discuss your problems, pro and con. I also bring along with me the regrets of the Minister of Telephones and the Deputy Minister of Telephones that they are unable to attend this meeting. Both, I believe, are in eastern Canada. However, we have with us Mr. Clark, General Superintendent and also Mr. W. A. Sheardown, ~~Divisional Superintendent in Saskatoon.~~ I have

the usual data from all the companies involved. The year was a fairly good year for the rurals. The debenture issue for the year was very small (\$5,000.00) and a large program has taken place in the province along the line of repoling; the special levy is in fair shape." Mr. Cavanagh then gave a review of the money paid on debentures, money paid on special levies, special funds in the bank, special funds in Dominion Government bonds. He stated that the total special funds amount to over a million dollars.

The chairman suggested that members of the convention send a letter of condolence to Mrs. Annie Randall and family of Tisdale. The executive had already sent a message of sympathy. This letter should be from the delegates of the convention. Moved by Nipawin and seconded by Briarlea that the suggestion be approved. Carried.

The next speaker, Mr. Clark stated, "I appreciate the opportunity of being here this morning. I cannot add very much as far as rural telephones are concerned. Mr. Cavanagh will deal with that section. I wish you well in your deliberations today and that the meeting will be a success".

Mr. Sheardown said, "In the past two years, I have tried to put in a plug for the secretaries of the rural companies, as they do a great deal of work. This morning I want to say again how much we appreciate their efforts and to compliment them."

The chairman reminded the delegates that resolutions may be handed in to the secretary or to committee members at any time.

The chairman: "There was a question left over from last year regarding superannuation for rural linemen and a committee was set up to study the problem. Is the report of that committee ready at this time?"

Mr. Howes, committee chairman, suggested that the reading of the report be left over until after lunch as more delegates would be present at that time.

The secretary then gave the financial report — auditor G. W. Barrett & Co.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures
For the period July 1, 1955 to June 30, 1956

RECEIPTS	
Membership Fees	\$284.00
Sask. Gov't 'Phones	150.00
Sask. Timber Board	
Honorarium	50.00
Interest - Dominion	
of Canada - Bond	3.75
Deposit By J. M. Stroeder	
to cover Bank Overdraft	
of Jan. 18, 1956	22.67
Exchange added to	
Cheques received	
on acc't of mem'ships85
	<hr/>
	\$511.27
Bank Bal., July 1, 1956	\$393.15
Dom. of Can. - Bond	50.00
	<hr/>
	\$954.42

EXPENDITURES

Directors Travel Exp.	\$396.90
Printing, Postage	
and Stationery	102.08
Secretary's Salary - to	
July 1, 1955 (1954-55)	90.00
Stenographic Services	10.00
Hall - Rent	35.00
Audit Fees	7.50
Flowers	10.30
Bank Service Charges	2.32
Interest-Bank Overdraft	2.00
Exchange on Cheques,	
Cheques Deposited	\$ 3.95
Cheques Issued	1.90
	<hr/>
	5.85
	<hr/>
	661.95
Bank Bal., June 30, 1956	\$265.07
Less Outstanding	
Cheque	22.60
	<hr/>
	\$242.47
Dom. of Canada - Bond	50.00
	<hr/>
	292.47
	<hr/>
	\$954.42

Moved by Manitou Lake, seconded by Viscount that it be adopted, received and filed. Carried.

A delegate inquired about unpaid bills and cheques. In reply the secretary stated no outstanding bills except his salary, 1955-1956, of \$100.00 and the \$4.25 overdeposited in 1954 by reason of exchanges, and the \$22.67 overdraft in the bank in January 1956. Total \$126.92.

A delegate thought that "any outstanding accounts should be shown in the financial statement as otherwise it does not give a true picture of our financial circumstances". Director Greaves restated the facts and said that the secretary-treasurer does not get paid in advance; but will be paid for the past years work at the end of the convention.

Delegate Greaves said: "You can no longer hope to conduct an organization when you receive only \$284.00 in membership fees. You have got to realize that if this organization is worth anything at all it is worth paying the membership fees. I ask the members to consider raising the levies and move that a revision of the fees be immediately discussed."

The secretary in reply to a question said: "Our fees in the past — 50 cents per rural circuit; minimum \$2.00. Maximum \$10.00 plus exchange. Discussing it this morning in the directors meeting, it was suggested that the maximum be lifted and a straight fee of 50 cents per rural circuit be adopted."

A delegate: "If we can get twice as many into the organization we would have twice as many fees."

The chairman: "That is a good suggestion. It has long been our aim to encourage and get more members. Others have said we should

change our place of convention and have it in Regina and see if that would induce more members to join the Association.

Mr. Guest: "I received a letter sent out by the secretary. Letters are of little value. Most circular letters end up in the waste basket and accomplish little or nothing. If each rural company, its secretary and the president will talk to the ones around and put it to them what we want and what we're striving for, more interest should be created and more companies induced to join the association."

A delegate: "We cannot force anyone into this organization. We should find out if we can levy a compulsory membership fee on all companies."

The chairman: "How would such a levy be put on the companies and how would you make them pay it?"

A delegate: "We should be able to put on this levy — if they are not here their silence is consent."

Chairman: "We can make a levy, but who will compel them to pay it?"

Mr. King: "In the Regina area the Saskatchewan Dairy Association deducts amounts from every producer who sells a product to them. At some time each year an amount is deducted from the remittance sent to the producer." Considerable discussion followed.

Question: "Could the act be amended that all rural companies must take out membership?"

Reply: "If you can persuade the government to endorse enabling legislation."

A delegate: "I firmly believe that membership fees should be paid in advance. Fees for 1956-57 should be due and payable in July 1956."

Reply by the secretary: "Our bylaws stated that fees were to be paid in advance."

Manitou Lake requested Mr. Cavanagh to comment re amending the act re compulsory membership. "In my opinion," he stated, "it would be impossible to put it over. Your privately owned company and your board of directors are appointed to run the affairs of that company, and no one can change it except when you are contrary to the rural telephone act. Mr. King mentions the Dairy Association and I express doubt as to whether they could make it stick."

A delegate inquired: "Does The Saskatchewan Government Telephones pay a \$150.00 membership fee?"

Chairman: "Yes—The Saskatchewan Timber Board a \$50.00 fee — neither have voting powers."

Question: "How many fees of the companies that belong to this association are outstanding?"

Reply by the secretary: "We keep cash records only of companies that send in membership fees. If a former member company forgets to pay fees we cannot make entries for that year. Actually we have no outstanding membership fees, since we cannot compel any one to pay".

A delegate remarked: "I talked to all my neighboring telephone companies, got them interested. They said they would come; become members and pay their fee. But they didn't show up."

Nipawin: "We pay fees for Workmen's Compensation. What about compulsion of companies to pay fees to the organization?"

Mr. Cavanagh: "These fees were put on by this association. An amendment to the Workman's Compensation Act was necessary."

Separate account. People were being hurt on the rural telephone lines and not being compensated for their injuries. That is how it came to pass. We are actually liable if a man is hurt. Maybe a very large amount had to be paid. Now every company is protected. The Workmens Compensation pays. Insist on getting your linemen to play safe and thus reduce the chance of being hurt and keep our rates of

compensation low."

A delegate: "Workmens Compensation Act was for the benefit of the company so why should not compulsory fees be of benefit also as delayed to their benefit to belong to this organization."

A delegate: "Other companies were insured for public liability and thus injured person would have to apply for benefits under public liability and should come under some phase of the Workmen's Compensation Act. This rate system is raising a lot of problems."

"The rural telephones and municipal problems are so different that we must have an organization to handle these problems. We are a co-operative company under separate charter."

Mr. Howes: "I do not agree with the attitude of asking the Government to do something about it. I believe we should have a co-operative central which would supply materials at lower costs, and in this way cut our hardware costs by 30%. The company would pay a legal fee for legal advice. I mention these as some of the things we should probably do for future development."

Mr. Greaves: "A committee was appointed to study superannuation for linemen. Was this committee paid for its efforts? We cannot operate without increased fees. They should be at least a minimum of \$5.00 a year. Even a small company will find it possible to pay this."

A delegate: "Companies attending here today should be able to raise this money."

A delegate: "I support Mr. Greaves of Star City. This can be an immediate gain whilst these other methods may be worked out later."

Chairman: "It would be necessary to change our by-laws as \$10.00 is the maximum at present. Are you willing to do so?"

Moved by Manitou Lake and Nipawin that our by-law be amended to read: 50 cents per rural circuit—Minimum \$5.00. No maximum—Exchange added."

Vote result: Carried.

Question: How many companies are members now? Will these fees bring us enough money?

Answer: About 45 companies.

Question: How many companies in the province?

Answer: About 980.

A delegate: "Maybe our fees are too low that a lot of companies feel it is not worthwhile to pay it. If you pay a reasonable sum of money for an article, you appreciate it more."

A delegate: The organization has to be kept alive by those that are present.

Mr. Furneaux: When we send out our report of this meeting, I suggest that we also send them a bill for the amount they should pay to this association.

Secretary's reply: It would be impossible to bill all the companies as I have no record as to the number of circuits each company has.

Mr. Cavanagh: I can answer the question asked; but I do not have the name of the companies:

150 companies with 1 circuit
120 companies with 2 circuits
108 companies with 3 circuits
75 companies with 4 circuits, etc.
1 company with 42 circuits
3 companies with 43 circuits
2 companies with 45 circuits

A delegate: There would be no financial troubles if all the companies paid fees.

A delegate: It seems that officials of some companies do not care. Make them do it by legislation.

Chairman: The deputy Mayor of the city has just come in and it is my pleasure to present Mr. Heggie.

Mr. Heggie: For some reason I was under the impression your convention was in the Bessborough hotel. As deputy mayor for this

term I am very pleased on behalf of Mayor McAskill to welcome you. We like to think that Saskatoon is the convention centre of the province. We like you to come here, hold your meetings and deliberations. We know that what is good for you is indirectly good for us. Most of you, I presume, are connected with agriculture as you are rural members, and that many of you were able to attend the Pionera last week, which I am sure will become something of an institution in Saskatoon and means as much to us as the Calgary Stampede does to Calgary; and will be continued to preserve the ideals of the early people and the machinery that was used to break up and cultivate the soil on the prairies. I hope that while you are here you may be able to visit our new city hall, which was declared open by the Hon. L. M. McIntosh on June 25th last. Also visit our university and the new University hospital, which is one of the most modern and up-to-date in North America. It is recognized as such by institutions such as the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. This is a tribute to all citizens of Saskatchewan who helped to built it. The association of Rural Telephones to my mind is a very important form of our communication life in Saskatchewan. Your individual companies did the basis of telephone communication in the early days of this province. Saskatchewan Government Telephones is made up of various units. You own your own units. You are here to discuss your problems as they face you and to discuss improvements and make requests to local and provincial governments for better organized and better work systems. The deliberations you are having here are important to you and important to us. Again I wish to express the hope that your convention will be a success.

Chairman: We should express our appreciation to Mr. Heggie, the deputy mayor, for his kind words. Let us do so in the usual way.

Question: How many circuits in the province?

Answer: About 6000.

Moved by Beatty and seconded by Manitou Lake that we adjourn for lunch. Carried.

The afternoon session was opened by the showing of a film entitled "Early Handling of Back Injuries". The speaker said that the biggest hazard in climbing poles is in falling while descending. Biggest injury is caused by what they fall on, and that the most common injury from such a fall is a back injury. He asked if any of them had ever employed a woman and stated that a woman line worker is the safest worker. Even as a switchboard operator, women are more careful and correct in their work than men. In winter no lineman should go out to repair a line without telling the switchboard operator exactly where he is going. Many times an accident occurs and the biggest danger is from frost bite while lying helpless on the ground. He urged the members to recognize their hazards.

Question: What about barbed wire attached to poles, or if fences are very close to poles?

Answer: I would not stand for it. I would ask the farmer not to nail his fence to the pole because of the danger to the lineman climbing a pole. Most farmers will co-operate.

Question: Should every man who has a fall report it whether he is hurt at the time or not, as a disc may be dislocated or pressure may occur later?

Answer: Yes, report all accidents, however slight, to the switchboard operator who can in turn report it to the executives.

Question: What is your opinion on setting telephone poles about half the distance from the road to the power poles?

Answer: That sounds practical. New installations should be planned with care to eliminate all possible hazards.

Question: Is casual labor covered in The Workmen's Compensation Act?

Answer: Yes. You must be on the payroll. The rules for compensation states the sum of 25 cents on repair work and \$4.00 on installation; unless the group itself has had a lot of accidents. If you are an official, you get less." The accident prevention committee is familiar with assessment.

Question: If we have a lineman, who hires and fires, is the notice on the receipt sufficient to show that he is on the payroll?

Answer: In some cases this would be questionable. It should be transferred to your regular books.

Question: What about a director on the way to a director's meeting and is injured. Would he be paid?

Answer: Yes if he is paid for going to the meeting. However, if he goes on his own, it would not be paid.

Question: If a director is out supervising the line and is injured, would he receive compensation?

Answer: If he is on the payroll.

Question: What about a secretary, is he entitled to compensation?

Answer: Not if he is only a secretary. Yes, if he is a lineman too.

Mr. Kalmakoff of the Saskatchewan Timber Board said we are having a shortage of poles due to the conditions last winter for securing poles. We are particularly short of 20's, that is 20 ft. poles. However, we have a good quantity of 25 ft. poles. We have tried and are doing some treating with pentachlorophenol. Creosote poles are difficult to climb. Linemen do not like to climb them as they get so dirty. Pentachlorophenol poles are brown in color and should be dry before treating. We found in the spring when the weather became warm that some of the penta poles are damp. Some of them had been overtreated and the warmth brought the excess out making them damp. Recommendations were made for a steaming process after they have been treated with Penta and this may prove the answer. We are going into summer production of 20 ft. poles. They are not too well seasoned, but will be more satisfactory if used later in the season. We have put out a book this year on the advantages and disadvantages of Penta treatment and I hope that this booklet will be helpful to you.

Question: Does The Timber Board send out a price list to all rural telephone companies?

Answer: Yes, we do send out a list, not as a general practice but to those companies from whom inquiries are received.

Question: Do you ship or deliver by truck?

Answer: Yes, we can deliver by truck. Limit of not less than 100 poles to go 120 miles.

Question: Does the rural telephone company deal with The Timber Board or with the trucker?

Answer: With the Timber Board, who arrange for a trucker. Of course the company can get a trucker if they wish.

Question: Can you give us any idea to the length of service of the various quality of wood?

Answer: It varies. Cedar poles with no treatment at all stand up a considerable time if on high dry land. Butt-treated cedar does not decay in the air thus has a considerable life. Jackpine are fully treated as they will not last in the open air. Pine when properly treated with creosote, is probably the best pole you can buy. Information has been given that such poles have lasted up to 70 years and are still good for many years. Penta treatment has been in use for 15 years; thus no one can be sure that this treatment is as good as the creosote treatment. Some companies using poles have used methods of "exhilarated aging". They put the pole in such conditions that it shows the condition wrought by years. Bell Telephone and Ontario Hydro have tested this Penta treatment and are not using it. Creosoted Jackpine poles will last for

40 years.

Question: Does the creosated pole get brittle or dry?

Answer: It should be less likely to become brittle than the dry Penta treated pole. Poles are purchased in accordance with specifications called for by the Canadian Standards Association and that the Timber Board tries to supply poles to suit the needs of Saskatchewan conditions. Some poles are being hand peeled this season because of the summer production of poles. In many cases these poles cannot be brought out during the summer, so they are peeled and left to season. Otherwise they are brought to Prince Albert and peeled by machine.

A vote of appreciation was given to Mr. Kalmakoff.

Question: When a telephone line has gone by a place and sometime later the owner of that place wishes to have the line set up to his house, could such a person be forced to pay the cost? In reply, Mr. Cavanagh said this has been handled in a resolution two years ago, and the vote was 5 to 1 against changing the Act. The arrangement that many rural companies use is that if the individual will take care of the digging of the holes and the erection of the poles, they will string the wire line. The charge is to that person minus the cost of the telephone box. In some cases they use poles that have been salvaged from other areas. A circular letter on this question was sent to all companies in the province and the report was 5 to 1 against.

Report of the Superannuation Committee given by Mr. Howes. The committee was appointed at the last meeting of our association. We were to consider and devise a superannuation scheme for rural linemen. One meeting was held in Saskatoon on December 5th. The linemen association was represented. If we ~~go into a scheme of our own, we are up against~~ heavy cost of administration. Our organization would be too small. You would need some organization handling supplies and other costs in order to keep down costs of our own scheme. To become part of the Saskatchewan Government Telephone Systems would involve many problems as the set-up is different and thus this idea was dropped. If the scheme was to go ahead it would have to be accepted by everyone. Any superannuation scheme would have to be available to all employees of rural telephone companies, whether operator, lineman or supervisor. It must be available to all who are employed in that kind of work. The last ten years have been a period of change. Recently we had an election; three parties in the field, each urging us to believe that there would be more industrialization under their rule. What have been the results of the last ten years on the farm? There is no unemployment service and no superannuation for farm labor. Rural telephone companies must devise some superannuation scheme if we are going to meet competition and the growing industrialization. Any person earning less than \$750.00 annually would have the option of remaining outside the scheme. You have linemen hired on a contract basis; a salary basis (maintenance basis); linemen hired with transportation provided; and linemen who provide their own transportation. Linemen taking on work on a straight contract basis for construction would not be subject to any superannuation. If a superannuation scheme is going to function the commission must be paid directly to the company. Then the company pays its employees. An endeavour was made to make some arrangement with the Urban Municipal Employees Scheme operating in the province today. It covers all employees, secretaries of villages, clerks of towns, and all other full time employees of towns and cities. School Trustee Associations and the Regional Public Library Associations have entered that scheme. The advantages of the Urban arrange-

ment are many. All costs of administration are paid by the Provincial Government. Under the Urban scheme you would have a representative on their board. The Urban scheme is a working scheme. It has proved successful up to date and provides sufficient elasticity to meet changing circumstances as they come up through the years. In December it was decided to approach the Superannuation Board to find out if they would be favorable to include employees of rural telephone companies. On April 19th Mr. Sutton, Fritshaw and myself and Mr. Cavanagh met with the Board. They assured us that they would do everything to cooperate with us and send their representatives to attend the convention and answer the questions of members. No commitments have been made, but the way is open to proceed with the scheme. The Urban plan has been administered by the Government. The Board cannot speak for the government and can only speak of the co-operation they are willing to give. To find out if the Government was prepared to accept the responsibility of a scheme for employees of rural telephone companies, your committee had to meet with the Minister of Rural Affairs, L. F. MacIntosh. He said he would take it up with the Cabinet.

Letter dated April 23rd stated that Cabinet approval has been granted in principle to include rural telephone company employers and employees under the "Act". There are two ways in which this scheme may be entered; and it is provided for in the Act: (1) there is a compulsory way—every company and every employee is in. A person can withdraw if he earns less than \$750.00, or if he is over 55 years of age. (2) Voluntary basis—company could be out or in. I feel that we must build up stronger support for our organization perhaps by handling supplies.

Question: What fund does the Government derive the money from to pay for this scheme?

Answer: As far as pay is concerned, anybody working for the employer, you receive pay for the work that you do. The money comes to you, the employer or employee, of the telephone company, through the telephone company. It comes from the consolidated fund of the province.

Question: Will it be recognized by the Cabinet that we were speaking for all telephone companies?"

Answer: Yes, we took up the question with the understanding that we were a committee speaking for the rural telephone companies of this province. The letter from Mr. MacIntosh was read again in answer to this inquiry.

Question: How many people would this involve?

Answer: 1794 operators are not included in this estimate. About 3500 people in this province would likely be included in this scheme.

Mr. Greaves: Operators should not be included as many are young women who may contribute for a few years, but never become acceptable for superannuation, as they probably will get married. The telephone company will have to pay in \$300.00 a year and yet this employee will never reach superannuation.

Question: Older people that are operators should come under the scheme.

Answer: Urban scheme provides for exemption of one year if an employee has paid in for a number of years and then leaves, the employee gets back the money that was paid in. The amount paid in by an employee becomes a bonus to those that stay in the scheme. If you wish to proceed further it would take at least 3 months before we would be in a position to ask the government for an amendment of the Act to take care of rural telephone companies.

Question: How many companies are there in the province that would be effected in case

we did go ahead with the scheme?

Answer: I can give no accurate answer as to the number of linemen in the province. Some linemen look after two or three towns.

A delegate: If this scheme is set up, we would have less trouble getting linemen.

Mr. Cavanagh reading from his report said that out of 520 companies heard from there were 120 linemen having a salary of \$750.00 or better.

A delegate: There are many full-time employees who are part-time linemen. Any full-time employee who has worked for a rural telephone company in whatever capacity they are needed should be included for a superannuation.

Question: Would you say that it is better to have as many as possible?

Answer: Yes. It helps to spread the calculated risk.

Question: What is the benefit going to be for employees of small companies?

Answer: It would depend upon the salary received. If the employee worked for a number of years at a sufficient salary and purchased an annuity at that time, it would be of benefit to him. This employee might be a new employee and might work for life for the rural telephone company. If the interest accumulated over the years was not sufficient for him to purchase an annuity; if the employee resigned or failed to reach superannuation, he would be able to get all that was paid by him and the interest accrued to him over the years. Otherwise the funds paid by the employer are used to strengthen the fund. Nevertheless you could in the case of a small company, acquire a certain amount of savings due to the fact that you had served a good many years and had reached the age of retirement. If you have not saved enough to purchase an annuity, there is an arrangement by which you can receive a cash settlement. In the case of ill health there is a provision for this, but you must have a period of 15 years service or reached the age of 55 years.

Question: In the case of a lineman such as ours where we have 3 circuits and he probably works for 3 other companies as well, is it possible for that man to get under the arrangement?

Answer: This would be a voluntary arrangement.

Question: In the event of an operator who has served a period of years in a certain company and transfers to another company which is not in the scheme, how does it effect their benefits?

Answer: They lose all their benefits.

Moved and seconded that this association agree in principle with the scheme that all permanent, full-time employees of rural telephone companies receive a superannuation scheme and recommend that negotiations continue to put the scheme into effect. Carried.

Moved by Manitou Lake and Viscount "we extend our appreciation for the work that Mr. Howes and Mr. Sutton have put into this research. Carried.

Mr. Greaves: I would like to reiterate that the committee on superannuation has been asked to continue their work. It is not fair for them to continue year after year to do this work on their own time and expense. They should hand in their expense account and that same be paid. Carried.

Mr. Furneaux: Could it be made clear whether the motion regarding the increased membership fees for the ensuing year was passed or not?

Chairman: Yes. The motion for amendment and the motion for the increase was made in the same motion. Thus the rates will be in effect after July 1st, 1956.

ELECTIONS:

Mr. Fritshaw asked Mr. Cavanagh to act as chairman during the election of the president.

Nominations called.

1. Mr. Fritshaw, Tisdale. 2. Mr. Howes, Kindersley. Moved by Round Plains that "nominations cease." Seconded. Carried.

Result of vote: Mr. Fritshaw elected.

Vice-President: Nominated R. J. Greaves. Moved by Connaught and Beatty that nominations cease. Carried.

Mr. R. J. Greaves, Star City declared elected.

Directors: 1. Mr. R. A. Clackson, Ridgedale, Sask; 2. Mr. John C. Epp, Rosthern; 3. Mr. C. B. Sutton, Marshall; 4. Mr. W. G. Streeton, Sr., Plunkett; 5. Mr. Carl Runyan, Punnichy; 6. Mr. W. H. Howes, Kindersley; 7. Mr. H. B. Polkinghorne, Marsden; 8. Mr. A. R. Lindquist, Assiniboia; 9. Mr. M. Scramstad, Hendon; 10. Mr. D. T. Wilson, Shellbrook.

Moved and seconded that nominations cease. Carried.

The above declared elected directors.

A delegate: Do I understand that the president and the vice-president are not automatically members of the directors?

Reply: They are also directors.

The chairman then asked for suggestions as to the place to hold next year's meeting. Last year Regina was suggested for 1957. Some inquiries have been made and Mr. Cavanagh will now report to you.

Mr. Cavanagh: We made inquiries regarding places and prices for 1957 convention. In Regina the new museum could be had—seating capacity 400—and equipped with a public address system. It is free up to 5 p.m. After that hour there is a charge of \$1.25. If Regina is selected a letter should be sent to Mr. Bard stating also the date of meeting.

Moved and seconded that the 1957 convention be held in Regina. Carried.

Auditor: Moved by Wadena and Manitou Lake that G. W. Barrett and Company be re-engaged for the coming year. Carried.

Question: The line is in the field, what steps should be taken to protect the company and the shareholders? Would you have to get permission from each individual owner?

Answer: Yes, they are registered in the Land Titles Office and you would have the same protection as you had along the road.

Question: If one farmer out of four objects, does it stop the whole thing?

Answer: Yes, unless the others can influence him to change his mind. You cannot put poles on that man's land without his permission.

Question: What distance would you suggest that we take the poles into the farmer's land?

Answer: I believe 100 feet from the centre of the road or present grade.

A delegate: Bylaws in some municipalities provide that it be 90 to 120 feet from the centre of the road.

Question: Is there any specific distance that trees should be set from the pole line?

Answer: They should be far enough away that they are not a hazard to the lineman.

Some figure that caragana does not grow very high and thus does not interfere with the line, but I have seen some higher than the lines. If these trees have to be trimmed to prevent interference with the line, they present a further major cost to the rural telephone company. I think they should be at least 20 feet from the poles.

Question: What can be done if one party refuses to give his consent so that the telephone line can be put through fields for 2 or 4 miles?

Answer: One party can defeat it. If you take his land away from him and pay him for it, you would have to pay for the running through his land. But in this case, you would have to pay the others who had given their consent as otherwise it would not be fair.

Considerable discussion dealing with the cost of moving a telephone line because a high-

way or municipal road is being put through.

Question: How many poles required to the mile using steel wire?

Answer: 22 poles to the mile. It pays to use new wire; saves 11 holes to be dug; 11 poles to be set; 22 brackets and 22 insulators to be set.

Question: What is the life of a pole?

Answer by Mr. Cavanagh: "In 1928 the system put their first poles in the ground between Lumsden and Davidson and this line became greatly overloaded, but when they re-poled it this spring, I personally inspected the poles removed and though they had been 28 years in the ground there was no sign of the fibres breaking".

Question: Is a 50-50 deal fair to the rural telephone companies?

Answer: No. Rural telephones are functioning without a nickel of profit. A small company can have a line running up a road 6 or 7 miles. For them to move that it will cost them \$65 to \$100 a mile. Everybody in the municipality benefits from it and therefore the more fair thing is to spread it over the whole picture. When government poles are being moved off the highways, we get 50% of the labor from the Highways. Agreement with R. M.'s is the same. Usually the understanding with rural telephone companies is a 50-50 deal. With the grid system, the Government is paying 50% and the municipality 50%. If you are building a road and a telephone line, the same people will use these services.

Re beginner-operators resolution No. 1—1955:—The secretary reported of having met with various governmental officials. No official thought an amendment was necessary. Some discussion, but no further steps taken.

Resolutions: Presented by Mr. Sutton. 1.

That when amalgamation takes place between companies the estimate of costs of such amalgamation be prepared by the Dept. of Telephones.

Carried.

2. That whereas at present all lands in a rural telephone company must be gazetted for selling debentures to extend a telephone system, we hereby petition the Government to change to require only such lands as are affected by such extension, as at present such lands can be charged for such extension costs without charging of it to the existing part of the system.

Mr. Cavanagh: "The new extension pays the full cost. I see nothing wrong with the present system. To raise a debenture 85% of taxes must be paid."

Moved and seconded this resolution be tabled. Carried.

3. Whereas this convention feels this association of rural telephone companies must have an assured income in order to perform the functions for which it was organized and the present voluntary payment of fees has proved totally inadequate; Therefore we request that necessary legislation be enacted that each company in the province shall pay a membership fee of 25 cents per circuit annually. This would give the Association an approximate yearly income of 1500 dollars.

After discussion is was carried.

Mr. Cavanagh announced that schools for instructing linemen will be continued.

A vote of thanks and appreciation to all speakers and officials of the Government was moved and seconded. Carried.

Mr. Greaves asked that this convention give congratulations to the Department of Telephones. Carried.

Mr. Cavanagh replied that he would be pleased to carry this vote back to the Department. I would also like to thank Mr. McLean for being here and giving of his time on the subject of superannuation.

Moved and seconded that we adjourn. Cd.

J. M. Stroeder—Sec.-Treas., Pilger, Sask.